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A
S E R M O N

Preached at the
Meeting of Protestant Dissenters,
CALLED

QUAKERS,

Turners-Hall LONDON;

On the 16th. of the Second Month, 1696.

Being the Publick

Day of Thanksgiving

For the Deliverance of the

King and Kingdom.

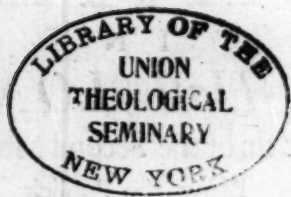
By GEORGE KEITH.

To which is added a Testimony of Fidelity and Subjection
to King WILLIAM the III. from the aforesaid People
on behalf of themselves and others of the same
Perswasion with them.

LONDON:

Printed for B. Aylmer at the Three Pigeons in Cornhil, 1696.

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By GEORGE KEITH

London: Printed and Sold by J. B. Groombridge and Sons, 6, Ave-Mary-Street, in the Strand, 1853.

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Isaiah xxxviii. xix.

The Living, the Living be shall praise thee, as I do this Day.

Compared with *Psal.* 18. 46, &c.

IT is a certain Testimony which the Holy Scripture gives concerning those that praise God, according to the Words of that good King Hezekiah, a Faithful Servant of the Lord, *For the Grave cannot praise thee, Death cannot celebrate thee, they that go down into the Pit cannot hope for thy Truth.* How is this to be understood? Do not the Deceased Saints Praise God? Yes certainly they do, to wit their Souls and Spirits which die not: Though their Bodies die, their Souls Praise God. Who then are these Dead which the Scripture testifies do not Praise God? I Answer, such as are dead in their Sins and Trefpasses; for Sin hath brought that Spiritual Death over Men and Women that they are not capable to Praise God nor serve him any manner of way acceptably, till he breath upon them, and quicken them by his Living Breathings, and by that Living Vertue and Power which proceeds from him. Now Holy David was very sensible of this when he saith, in that excellent Psalm, *The Lord liveth, and blessed be my Rock: Psal. 18. and let the God of my salvation be exalted. That Man 45.*

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or Woman that can say this, *The Lord liveth*, from a true inward and Spiritual Sense of his Living Power and Presence, that hath quickened them and made them alive, made them sensible of his Power and Mercy, of his great *Deliverance* and Preservation, these are only fit to say, *Blessed be my Rock: and let the God of my salvation be exalted.* But alas! How few are there in comparison that can speak these words in sincerity of Heart and from true experience, *The Lord liveth?* Those that can speak it in an acceptable way from true experience, they know the Revelation of Gods mighty Arm and living Power in their Hearts and Souls; They know that the Lord is the only Living and True God; There is no other God like to him: The Idols of the Nations are false Gods. The Psalmist speaks thus of them, *The Idols of the Heathen are silver and gold, the work of mens hands. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not. They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths. They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.* But David's God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, he is the True and Living God. Dead Idols can neither do good nor evil, but God is a present Help in trouble. God is the Living and True God; they that have an Inward Sense and Experience of his Mighty Power that hath quickened them, and made them alive, they alone can praise him in an acceptable manner. Those that are under the Power of Sin, and under its Reign and Government, they are under the Power of Death, and the Dead cannot praise him. Death reigneth over them, Spiritual Death; Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adams trans-

Psal. 135.
15, 16.

Eph. 2. 1, 4.

Rom. 5. 14.

trans-

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transgression. Death began from *Adam*, God made him upright and in Innocency; Death reigned from his Fall and Transgression, when he transgressed the Commandment of the Lord. So now I desire you well to ponder and consider this great and weighty Testimony of the Holy Scripture, who these are that are capable to praise God for his Mercies, Deliverances and Preservations. Those that he hath made alive, and quickened, those that can say from true Experience, *The Lord liveth*, and can call him their Rock, and can say with the Psalmist, *Blessed be my Rock: and let the God of my salvation be exalted.* And as he speaks in the beginning of this Psalm, *The Lord is my* Psal. 18. 2.
Rock, and my Fortrefs, and my Deliverer: my God, my strength, in whom I will trust, my Buckler, the horn of my Salvation and my high Towre. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine Enemies. And the Psalmist saith in another place, *Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing* Psal. 147. 1.
praises our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is comely. Praise is comely for the Righteous. It is as a beautiful and comely Garment; it is an Ornament Psal. 33. 1.
to them; but it is as improper for the Unrighteous and for Wicked and Ungodly Persons, as it is to take a Dead Carcase full of Stench and Corruption, and cloth it with a rich and beautiful Garment, so improper and uncomely is Praise and Thanksgiving in the Mouth of a Wicked and ungodly Person. The Scripture gives no Allowance to such as are altogether unfit, to Rejoyce and Praise the Lord; they are called to mourn and weep, and to be humbled for their Sins. But some may object and say, Is it not an universal Duty of all Men to praise the Lord? Yes if they will forsake their Sins, and turn to the Lord;

Isa. 55. 7. as the Prophet speaks, *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts : and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.* Then the Lord will accept of a Sacrifice of Praise, *Wash ye, make you clean, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes, cease to do evil, learn to do well, seek judgment, &c.* Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord : though your sins be as Scarlet, they shall be as white as snow ; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Then he will allow them to come into his presence and to speak unto him, and to offer him praise for his Mercies.

Now there is this thing further that I would recommend to your serious Consideration. Look through the whole Scripture and you shall find, it hath been the manner and way of Gods People to praise him, not only in general, daily and constantly for his Mercies, Favours, Preservations and Deliverances, but upon every New Occasion upon the receiving of any Extraordinary Mercies, Blessings, Preservations, or Deliverances from Dangers, and from Violence designed and threatned, to Praise, and Solemnly bless the Lord, with Cordial Thanksgiving ; and we are to set Time apart for this Work, and to excite and stir up our selves to magnifie and praise the Lord. Thus Holy David excites and stirs up himself to praise the Lord, and prays to the Lord to quicken him, *Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord : quicken me according to thy judgment. Many are my persecutors, and mine enemies : yet do I not decline from thy testimonies. Consider how I love thy precepts : quicken me O Lord, according to thy loving kindness. Of this I might give many Instances from the Holy Scriptures.*

Ps. 119.
156.

When

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When the Lord brought a Flood to drown the old World, he said, *I will destroy man, whom I have created,* Gen. 6. 7. *from the face of the earth, both man and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air.* But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and he commanded Noah to make him an Ark for the saving himself and his Family; and when he had finished it, the Lord said unto Noah, *Come thou and all thy house into the Ark:* Gen. 7. 1. *For thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation;* and that Ark was Instrumental for the preserving him and his Family from the Deluge. We see what benefit Noah's Family received by, and through him. You that dwell in Families that serve and fear the Lord, there is great benefit and advantage you may receive thereby; but it is not that which intitles you to Eternal Salvation: It is not the Righteousness of Parents that will save their Children, but they must be changed and renewed in their own particulars: But there is a great advantage in it for Children and Servants to dwell in a Godly Family; they enjoy many Spiritual Advantages, and partake of Temporal Salvation and Deliverances, as it appears by Noah's Family, who were saved in the Ark. After the Flood Noah builded an Altar unto the Lord, and in token of his Thanksgiving, he took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt-offerings on the Altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour: There was a sweet savour did ascend to the Lord, it was the savour of his Faith. And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, *And I, behold, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your seed after you; And I will establish my Covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood: neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.* I shall

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shall give some further Instances of this great Truth, of offering Praise and Thanksgiving to the Lord for Mercies and Deliverances. Consider that great and wonderful Deliverance that God gave to the Children of *Israel* when he brought them out of *Egypt*, through the Red Sea, as upon dry Land, *He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths as through the wilderness. And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them: and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left. Then believed they his words, they sang his praise.* You have the words of Thanksgiving set down: *Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and the rider hath he thrown into the Sea.* We have many Instances of this Duty of praising God in the Book of *Psalms*, *When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, the Lord hath done great things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us: whereof we are glad. And the Psalmist tells us, By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive, required of us a song; and they that wasted us, required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the Songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lords song in a strange land? But when they came back to their own Land, when the Lord turned back their Captivity, then they sang the Songs of Zion. The Apostle *John* tells in the Book of *Revelations*, how he saw, as it were a sea of glass, mingled with fire; and*

Psal. 106.
9, 10.

Exod. 15. 1.

Psal. 126.

Psal. 137.
1, 2.

Rev. 15.
2, 3.

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and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sang the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways thou King of Saints. Who are these may some say, of whom this may be understood, that they sung the Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb? I hope this is in part already fulfilled, and it will be more abundantly fulfilled, when the Lord shall be pleased to raise up many, and make them Living Witnesses of this Victory over the Beast, and over his Image, and over his Mark, and over the Number of his Name. Those that shall be raised up with a Living Testimony, and with a holy courage to withstand the gross Errors of the Church of Rome, and all her false Doctrine, and all the Papal Power, by which they have brought into bondage so many Thousands and Millions of People: Blessed be the Lord our God, that hath begun to break off that Yoke, and give a measure of Victory over this Beast, this Beastly Power and this Beastly Raging Spirit, that hath for many Hundred Years and Ages past, prevailed over the Spirits and Consciences of Men, and brought a Consternation upon them, that the general cry was, *Who* Rev. 13. *is able to make war with the Beast?* Yet still God hath 4. 8. had a number that would not Worship the Beast, and they were Sealed with the Seal of God; yet the greatest number Worshipped him, whose Names are not written in the Book of Life, of the Lamb slain from the Foundation of the World, whose Cry in those days was, *Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with the Beast?* I hope none of us here are of

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that

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that mind to slight and undervalue what God hath already done, to make way and room for what is now brought to pass, and will be more and more brought to pass and accomplished, the great Work of God, in raising up Men with a Noble and Undaunted Courage, and great Resolution, with their Lives in their Hands; for many have laid down their Lives to give a faithful Testimony of the Truth, and have sealed it with their Blood above One hundred and thirty Years ago: The Work of God is to be owned, the Arm of God was made bare, and his Mighty Hand made known therein: This which hath been done is a great preparation for what is to follow: He that made not the World at once, but by degrees, as in the space of six days: God that *was before time was*, is pleased to take time to bring forth his most wonderful Works in the World; God could (if he pleas'd) form the Child in the Mothers Womb in one day, or in a moment, yet he doth it gradually, in the space of ten Months; God could make a Corn or Grain of Wheat to grow up in a moment, but he hath appointed a season for it. The Errors and Corruptions of the Church of *Rome* are such, that she may well be called the Mother of Harlots, and Abominations of the Earth; She hath her Daughters, that tho they profess to be different from her, yet they are too much of her Spirit. All that Worship Idols of Gold and Silver, Wood and Stone; And likewise those that, although they do not Worship Images, yet if they love Money more than God, they are guilty of Idolatry, and will be numbred among her Daughters at the great Day of Account: As also, all Persecuters and false Worshipers. It was a mighty Work of God that hath broken the Ice in that that hath been already begun, and brought to pass,

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II

pass, and is yet further to be carried on till it be completed and accomplished. It was a wonderful Discovery and Revelation that God made to the Apostle John, who by the Light of Prophecy foresaw things to come, many Hundred Years before they were fulfilled, wonderful things respecting Worldly Governments relating to the State and Condition of the Church and People of God, *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven, a woman clothed with the Sun, and the Moon under her feet, and upon her head a Crown of twelve Stars: And she being with child, cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads, and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And the Dragon stood before the woman that was ready to be delivered for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the Wilderness, &c. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the Commandments of God, and have the Testimony Jesus Christ. The Apostle John by the Light of Divine Prophecy, he foresaw how long the Woman should continue in the Wilderness, and when the Scarlet Whore should be Judged, that had made her self drunk with the Blood of the Saints and Martyrs; And after these things, saith the Apostle, I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluja, Salvation, and Glory, and Honour, and Power unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his Judgments, for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And the four and twenty elders, and the four living creatures,*

Rev. 12. 1,
2, 3, 4, 15,
16.

Rev. 19.
1, 2, 4.

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tures, fell down and worshiped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluja. And the four living creatures, and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I, saying, Blessing, and Honour, and Glory, and Power be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. So that this I say, by way of Testimony out of the Holy Scripture, that it hath been the Work of Gods people to praise God for all his Mercies, Blessings and Deliverances, and this is that which God expects from us that we should Magnifie and praise him when he is pleased to work great Deliverances for us according to those Words of the Psalmist, Offer unto God thanksgiving, and pay thy vows unto the most high. And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorifie me. This is the just Tribute that God requires who is the Great Deliverer and Preserver of Men, to glorifie and praise him, and give him that honour that is due to his Great and Excellent Name, and not only to praise him with our Tongues and Lips, but with our Lives;

Psal. 50. 14, 15. Who so offereth praise, glorifieth me: (saith the Lord) and to him that ordereth his conversation aright, will I shew the salvation of God. And our saviour commandeth this, and chargeth it upon us as our duty. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorifie your Father which is in heaven. Now as concerning the praises of God; all Gods praises which

Mat. 5. 16.

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which are acceptable to him, they are to be in Spirit and in Truth. *God is a Spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. The father seeketh such to worship him.* The praises of God are of a higher and lower degree. We find there are in the Book of *Psalms* Songs of degrees, so there are the high Praises of God, when the Soul is raised up by Gods Power and Spirit from a deep and profound sense of his Mercies and great Deliverances to render Thanksgiving and Praise. *For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.* The *Psalmist* praised God for Spiritual and Temporal Blessings, for Mercies both to his Soul and Body. *I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praises unto my God, while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord.* When the *Psalmist* comes to utter the high Praises of God, these words are going before; *Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more: bless thou the Lord, O my soul, Praise ye the Lord.* When the high Praises of the Lord are to be in our Mouths, then all evil thoughts, and wicked imaginations, and sinful motions, such as hinder Gods Praises, are to be put far from us, that we may worship God in Spirit, and serve him with Sincerity and Purity of Heart. *O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; and make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wonderful works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoyce that seek the Lord. Seek ye the Lord and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done. Let the saints be joyful in glory: let the high praises of God be in their mouth, &c.* Blessed are they that can witness to this great

Truth, that upon receipt of great Mercies do render praises to God. If real gratitude be in our Hearts and the high Praises of God in our mouths, this is a token for good; it is like the white stone and new name, which none know but them that have it. It is a great folly in many Men that will argue so much about Perfection, as if they had attained to Perfection, and were already perfect, when it may be they know little of it, or are scarce advanced a few steps towards it. It is as if a Child of three or four Years old should dispute and quarrel about the Perfection of a Man come to a full age, and about the Wisdom and Strength of such a one; as an Infant under age is not in a capacity to understand these things, no more can many that talk so much of Perfection judge of the experiences of grown and eminent Christians.

1 John 2. The Apostle saith concerning such, *I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.* VVe cannot attain to this high degree of praising the Lord with a perfect heart, and a raised and heavenly mind as becomes those that sing the high Praises of God, till the body of Sin in a great measure be destroyed, mortified and crucified in us, that Sin may not have dominion, but that as Sin hath reigned unto Death, even so might Grace reign through Righteousness unto Eternal Life by Jesus Christ our Lord. The motions of Sin in the Flesh, are like a Rebel in a Country well governed: There may be some Rebels in a Princes Country that is well governed, and they may seek to do mischief, so it is with some in whom a good work is begun; he hath a Law in his Members, that wars against the Law of his Mind, to bring him into Captivity to the Law of

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of Sin, yet there is in him something that is good, so that the Reign and Government of Sin is opposed and resisted, and Sin hath not Dominion over him. It is a good and blessed State a Man is in, when he resists and strives against Sin to get the Blood of Sin; he will resist Sin unto Blood to get the Blood of Sin, *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood* (saith the Apostle) *Heb. 12.4.* *striving against sin.* There have been those that have resisted unto Blood, not to shed the Blood of Mankind, but have laid down their Lives in the Cause of God, and have Sealed their Testimony with their own Blood, and have witnessed against Popery, and the damnable Heresies of the *Church of Rome* with the expence of their own Blood. VVe have cause to bless God for those that are gone before us that have broke the Ice and prepared our way for us. VVe have cause to bless the Lord that hath the hearts of Kings in his hands and turneth them as the Rivers of VVater. Blessed be God that so inclined the Heart of the King and those in Authority, that all in this Nation and all the three Nations that are Sober and Godly and of tender Consciences may enjoy the happy Freedom and Liberty to serve and VVorship God according to their Faith and Perswasion. This is that, God hath graciously vouchsafed to us which is a Marvellous and Signal Mercy never to be forgotten. O how would we have prized this Mercy and Liberty some Years since, when we could not meet and assemble together without great hazard and suffering, when many were haled to Prison, and many knocked down, and had their Blood shed when they came together for the VVorship of God. O that we could truly apply to our selves the Words of Holy *David*, and say, *The Lord delivered us because he delighted in us: He deliver-* *Psal. 18. 17, 19.*
ed.

ed me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me. O that we could say, that God hath delivered the KING, and the whole Nation because he delighted in us, and hath taken pleasure in us. It may be said so concerning some, I would to the Lord, it might be so said concerning many among us. *David* saith further in the following words, *The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God. I was also upright before him: and I kept my self from mine iniquity.* This is a very high strain of *David*, he mentions his Innocency with respect to *Saul*; we have it thus expressed in the title of the Psalm; *David* the Servant of the Lord spake unto the Lord the words of this Song, in the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his Enemies, and from the hand of *Saul*. *David* was proclaimed by *Saul* a Traytor and a Rebel. Poor *David*, Little *David*, when he was a Shepherd, little thought that he should be the King of that great Kingdom; and after he was anointed King he did not conspire against *Saul*, that pursued him for his Life as a Rebel, but *David* was innocent with reference to him; therefore he saith, *The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness, and according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.* This is not to be understood, as if *David* relied upon his own Works or Merits, but he had a Testimony in his own heart, and the Lords Spirit bare him witness, that he was Innocent with respect to *Saul*, and the Lord accounted him Innocent, he suffered for his sake. The Lord chose

chose him to be King, without any Plotting or Contriving, and *David* was tender of *Saul*, he did not take the opportunity to slay *Saul* when some would have perswaded him. But then there is an observable word which *David* speaks, *I was also upright before him, and I kept my self from mine Iniquity.* A strange word may some say; How did he keep himself from his *Iniquity*? The opening of this may be of use and service to some here: It is thus to be understood; *David* tho he was a good Man, yet he did find, and was conscious to himself, that there was a Principle of Iniquity which lay very near to him, to tempt him to Sin, and to some particular Sin more than to others, which he calls *mine Iniquity*; he was not so careful and watchful afterwards, when he came to be settled in the Kingdom. He was not so watchful over his Heart, as to keep himself from that principle of Lust that was remaining in him; you know what appeared and brake out in the case of *Bathsheba*; he walked upon the top of his Palace, and was gazing abroad, he was not upon his Guard, did not keep his Watch, and his Iniquity got Victory over him; but before this happened, when he was vigilant and jealous over himself with a godly Jealousie, he could say, *I have kept my self from mine Iniquity*; this Expression declares to us thus much, that he had some particular Sin that he had need to watch against; he had some particular Enemy near to him according to those words of our Blessed Lord, *A Man's greatest enemies are those of his own house*: So it was in this case, *David's* worst Enemies were those of his own House, he did not watch and keep his guard against them in the time of his Prosperity, when he was advanced to the Crown and Scepter of *Judah* and *Israel*, and his Enemies subdued under him; after God had delivered him

him from the Hands of all his Enemies, he should have kept himself from his *Iniquity*, as he had done formerly when *Satan* hunted and pursued him as a *Papist* upon the Mountains. Men and Women commonly have some particular Sin and Lust, which in a peculiar manner they may call their own *Iniquity*. It is Voluptuousness and the love of Carnal Pleasure in some, Ambition and Pride in others; and Envy and Malice in some, and Covetousness (which is Idolatry) in others. Therefore let not Men Flatter and Deceive themselves, and think that there is nothing of the Seed and Principle of Sin remaining in their Flesh. I have heard of the Saying of a choice Christian a worthy Woman, *She had long experienced a blessed State of nearness to God*. I have heard a Person say (that had it from her own Mouth) that for the Space of some Years, the Grace of God did shine in her as the Sun at Noon-Day. It was a constant thing with her to walk with God the whole Day, from her rising up to her lying down, and she enjoyed a lively sense of the Love of God, and the Consolations of his Holy Spirit. But it pleased the Lord afterwards to hide his Face; and then she was troubled, yet God did not utterly leave her, for she Died a good Christian: But He did withdraw and withheld from her those sensible Joys and Consolations she had tasted and felt in Communion with Him; some have heard her say, *When it was far from me, that the Light of God's Countenance was lifted up upon me, and he had put gladness into my Heart. I thought there was no Joy any place in room in me: but after those refreshing and sensible Consolations were removed, and the Lord did hide his Face from me, who hath promised he will not utterly forsake his People, whose Faithfulness doth engage him never finally to leave them, tho' for some time he may*

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seem to Desert them; when I had (said she) those wonderful Joys and refreshings from the presence of the Lord, I thought Sin had been quite gone, but afterward I found it was but driven into a corner. Many that think they are come to high Attainments, may say, For I know Rom. 7.18. that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing. O wretched Creature that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death! I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. The Work that God hath appointed to every Christian is like the work of a Gardener Dressing his Garden, we are so to manage our Hearts, and order our Conversations, and Cultivate our selves, that we may be as a Watered Garden to the Lord. A Dresser of a Garden must take great pains, and labour hard to make it Fruitful; if he doth not diligently and constantly employ himself, Weeds will be springing up, and hinder the growth of the Herbs and Flowers; therefore the Gardener must lay his Hands to it, and pluck up the noxious Weeds that they may not spread and spoil and overrun the Garden. So we must labour and take pains with our Hearts and Souls. I remember it was a saying of Bernard in a Letter which he wrote to some of his Friends, *Let your Soul be continually in your Hands*, as David said, *my soul is continually in my hands*, that is, in a way of reliance and giving it up into the Hands of the Lord. Psal. 119. 109. But Bernard, when he saith, *Let your Soul be continually in your Hands*, he means thus, Let your Soul be continually washing and cleansing every Day more and more, that you may be purified and kept unspotted from the World. If we have a spot or speck upon a Garment, we will take pains to rub it out. And thus it ought to be with every one of us; let our Souls be continually in our Hands,

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let us be dressing our Hearts continually, and keep them with all keeping; keep them with all Diligence, for out of them are the Issues of Life; keep your Hearts with all keeping, and our Lord Christ will refresh you with his Living Water, as he told the Woman of Samaria, *Whosoever drinketh of the Water that I shall give him, shall never thirst; but the Water that I shall give him, shall be in him a well of Water springing up unto everlasting Life.* There is a great Mystery in this; God for Christ's sake, and through Christ Jesus hath placed in us an inward principle of Divine Life. We are oft refreshed with the Streams of this Living Spring that flows within us, reviving us with the sense of the Love of God; What is it that oft hinders this Well from springing up in us, but the dirt and rubbish of Sin? The *Philistines* stopped the Wells that *Abraham* and *Isaac's* Servants had Digged, but they unstopped them again that the Waters might spring up. Let us keep our Hearts clear from the dirt and rubbish of Sin, that this Well may spring up in us to Everlasting Life. When our Saviour was demanded of the *Pharisees* when the Kingdom of God should come? He answer'd them, and said, *The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation. Neither shall ye say, Lo here, or lo there: for behold, the kingdom of God is within you.* Yet they were bad Men and Hypocrites. It was in them as a very little Seed, it was in them as if it were not in them; as the Man that had one Talent, he had it as if he had it not, he did no good with it; our Lord called him wicked and faithless Servant, and said, *Take therefore the Talent from him, and give it unto him which had ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away, even that which he hath.* A Covetous Man wants what he hath,

Luke 17.
20.

Math. 25.
23.

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hath, as if he had it not. Christ Jesus is the true Light that lighteth every Man that cometh into the World. I dissent from them that speak slightly of that Light which reproveth Sin in the Consciences of Men and Women, God hath put his Law in Mens Hearts, and as the Great Law-giver he hath written it there with his own Finger, *and the Gentiles that have not the Law, are a Law to themselves*, for if God had not writ his Law in all Mens Hearts they would have no sin, where no Law is there is no Transgression. God also writes his Laws in the Hearts of true Believers, and softens their Hearts to take the impression of it; but every Unbeliever and unconverted Man and Woman hath a Heart of Stone. None but those which know themselves to be of the New Creation of God, have experience of a Heart of Flesh given them, and a Heart of Stone taken away. It is they only that have the Law written upon the fleshy Tables of their Hearts, that are washed and purified; though I cannot say, there is a Well of Living Water in any that do not believe, yet there is something placed by God in every one towards it, like the Ministry of John the Baptist which was a preparing the way of the Lord, he was spoken of by the Prophet *Isaiah saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.* Our Saviour said to the Woman of Samaria, *if thou knowest the gift of God, and who it is that saith unto thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.* And in another place it is said, *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water; but this he spake of the spirit, which they*

that believe on him should receive; not Unbelievers: You that sincerely and truly Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, without all peradventure you have something of this Well of Living Water within you, you have the gift of God, O give thanks to God through Jesus Christ our Lord for this great and unpeakable Gift! Some may say, if I have a Well of Living Water in me, what is the reason I feel so little comfort? my soul thirsts, and I want this Living water to drink, O that I had some drops of it to cool and quench my thirsty Soul. I answer, Thou dost not diligently watch thy Heart; thou sufferest thy Sins, those *Philistines* to prevail over thee, and stop up thy Well. When *Abimelech's* Servants had stopped the Wells which were digged in the days of *Abraham*,

Gen. 26. 18.

Isaac digged them again; I say unto you throw away the Rubbish, and Earth, and Dirt, that is got into your own Hearts, and every thing that the Light in your own Consciences tells you is evil; and then the Waters will spring forth. Then you will experience a Well of Living Water springing up in you unto Everlasting Life. The Prophets of Old, *David* and *Samuel*, *Isaiah* and *Jeremy*, and *Daniel*, and all other Holy Men of God, they had experience of this Well within them springing up unto Everlasting Life, and all true Believers before Christ came in the Flesh, they

1 Cor. 10.

3. 4.

did all eat the same Spiritual meat, and drank the same Spiritual drink: (For they drank of that Spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ) and they had all those Spiritual Blessings we enjoy upon the account of Christ, his most Holy Obedience and Death; There was this difference between us and them. We believe in Christ that is already come, and they saw Christ in the Promises, and in Shadows, Types and Figures, and believed in Christ that was to come Under the

Law

Law they were under a Yoke of Bondage, but we have cause to bless the Lord, that his heavenly Father hath taken that Yoke from off our Necks, that neither they nor their Fathers were able to bear. We Read in Acts 15. These rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees, which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the Law of Moses. And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up and said unto them, Men and Brethren, ye know how that a good while ago, God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the Gospel, and believe. And God which knoweth the hearts, bear them witness, giving them the holy Ghost, even as he did unto us: And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers, nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be saved even as they. Blessed be God, that hath delivered us from that burden of Ceremonies and multitudes of Rites and Observations, that were continued till the clearer times of the Gospel, when all the Males before that time went every Year up to Jerusalem to worship, which was many Miles distant from many of their Habitations: The Lord hath been pleased to make the Christian Service under the Gospel much more easie to us upon an outward account, and likewise more advantageous as well as more easie and Delightful upon a Spiritual Account: God hath given us more of his Spirit in these times of the Gospel, whether God hath given us a greater Measure of his Holy Spirit than he gave unto the Prophets (for they had greater gifts of the Spirit) but there is now generally given

Acts 15.
5, 6, 7, 8.

Eph. 2. 7.

Psal. 18.

43. 44.

given more abundant measures of the Spirit to Gods People under this Dispensation of the Gospel; there were then in general but lower and lesser Measures; and as it were some droppings of the Spirit upon them that lived in former Ages, but in the latter days after Christs ascension there hath been the powring out of the Spirit, that (as the Apostle speaks) *God might in ages to come show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness towards us, through Christ Jesus.* And if any do not now witness the powring forth of the Spirit, they may find the cause in themselves, they are not careful and diligent to improve the Means and Advantages that God hath given to them, and that is the reason of it. In the close of the 18th Psalm, David speaks some things concerning himself, and other things relating to Christ, speaking of himself, as he was a Type of Christ, *Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people: and thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve me. As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves to me.* This was but little fulfilled in David the Type, but was largely fulfilled many hundred years after in Christ the Anti-type. When the Apostles came to Preach Christ Crucified, then very many that heard believed in Christ, and obeyed him, submitted themselves to him, and many afterwards laid down their Lives for him. My Friends, ought not we be very Thankful when we consider and call to mind what a sad condition *England* was in many Hundred Years ago, when the Inhabitants worshipped *Diana*, and other Idols and false Gods? *Jerom* saith, the *Britains* were so Savage and Barbarous, that they did eat Mans Flesh. Blessed be God for his abundant mercy and kindness to

us that hath brought many in this Nation to the true Knowledge of God and his Son Jesus Christ, which is Life Eternal. The *Psalmist* concludes the *Psalms* I have been mentioning with these words, *Psal. 118. 50.* Great deliverance giveth he to his King: and sheweth mercy to his annointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore. David (as a Type of Christ) stiles himself Gods King, none are to be called Gods Kings equally and in all respects as David was, thus he brings in God speaking in *Psalms*. 2. 6. of Christ. Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Great deliverance hath he given to his King; David was called Gods King in a peculiar sense as a Type of Christ: I know no King in the VWorld, that in all respects may equal himself with David. God sent the Prophet Samuel to anoint him King when he was keeping Sheep; he was the least and lowest of all his Brethren, but he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. Samuel Anointed him in the midst of his Brethren, and the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward; and afterward the People chose him to be King. It is my Belief and Perswasion, that there have been, and may be Kings in the World that may be said to be God's Kings. God hath raised up some for some singular and eminent Work, so God raised up Cyrus and stiled him his Anointed, *Isa. 44. 28.* and his Shepherd: I have raised him up in righteousness, *Isa. 45. 13.* (saith the Lord) and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of hosts. Whatsoever King or Prince God hath raised up, it should be our earnest Desire and Prayer, That the work of the Lord may

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Prosper in their Hands. And let me tell you this Day here is matter for high Praises and Thanksgiving, that God hath graciously and wonderfully Saved and Delivered the King from the Hands of bloody Men that designed his Destruction, and the Ruin of these Nations : We have abundant cause to be Thankful not only for his Personal Deliverance and Preservation ; but also to Pray that God would be pleased to make him an eminent Instrument in his Hand to serve and glorifie God in his Generation, and promote the Christian Faith, and the common Interest of all sincere Protestants against the Roman Papacy, and barbarous Tyranny and Slavery. I pray God the sense of this great Mercy and Deliverance may dwell upon all our Spirits. It is not only a Deliverance (as I hinted before) of the King's own Person ; but of us, our Wives and little Ones, our Cities, Towns, and Families : If this Design had prospered and answered the expectation of our Enemies, what Ruin and Confusion would it have brought upon these Nations ! What could we have expected in this Great and Populous City, but Desolation and Ruin throughout the whole Island. I speak in sincerity, I feel joy to arise in my Heart, and such a sense of this Mercy, as doth excite me to Praise and Thanksgiving, and to magnifie the Name of the Lord that hath done great Things for us ; if there be any that flatteringly and hypocritically Praise God for this National Mercy, they have their reward. Let us all therefore Sincerely Cordially and in good ear-ness expresse our Thankfulness to God for that great Salvation he hath wrought for the King and these Kingdoms. It is a signal Mercy and Universal Blessing. Let us all excite and provoke one another to be truly Thankful to God, not only with
our

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our Lips but with our Lives, not only verbally but really in a Christian Life and Conversation; without which our keeping a Day of Thanksgiving will not be acceptable to the Lord. For thus saith the Lord, *Who so offereth praise, glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright, will I shew the salvation of God.* Psal. 50.

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TESTIMONY

OF OUR

Faithful Obedience and Subjection

TO

King *WILLIAM* the III.

And His

GOVERNMENT.

AS We do sincerely believe and profess,
that Magistracy and Government in the
World is an Ordinance of God ; and that it is
the Duty of all Men to be subject to those in
Authority whom God hath placed over them ;
so most especially, that it is the Duty of all
Christians to be eminently exemplary to all o-
thers in giving and demonstrating all due sub-
jection to the Government and Authority un-
der which they live ; not only for Wrath but
for Conscience sake ; and that they ought to
pray for them, and give thanks to God for the
Blessings

Blessings and Benefits received by them and their Government; and for this cause Tribute is due unto them to support and maintain them in the necessary discharge thereof: And in behalf of our selves and other Christian People, who are of one Faith and Perswasion with us, as true and sincere Christians and Protestants, sincerely concerned in the common Interest of all true Protestants, for the preservation of the true Christian Protestant Doctrin and Faith, generally received and professed by all sincere Protestants, against the great and manifold pernicious Errors of the *Roman Papacy*, and for the true Christian Liberty, that God in his great Mercy hath in general brought into these Three Nations, as well as to other Protestant Countries, against the Usurpation of the Papal Hierarchy. By this our present Testimony we do sincerely and solemnly declare, that we hold it to be our Christian Duty, to give all due and faithful Subjection to King *WILLIAM*, the present KING of *England, Scotland and Ireland, &c.* with all Love, Humility, and due Honour, and Respect, and chearful, ready, and peaceable Obedience to Him, as Supream; acknowledging Him to be Rightful and Lawful KING of these Realms; and to all under Him

Him in Authority in their several Places and Stations; giving thanks with our hearts to God for the many Blessings and Benefits we enjoy under His Reign and Government: And we give Him Cordial Thanks, for the Liberty and free Exercise of our Consciences, which He hath Granted, and is Establish'd by Law, in Worshipping God according to our Faith and Perswasion. And we utterly deny and disown the Authority of all Foreign Power to have any Jurisdiction over these Realms: As also, we give thanks to God for the late great Deliverance and Preservation, that God hath given Him, in Delivering Him and Preserving Him from the wicked Attempts and Designs of such as did intend to Assassinate Him; in whose great Deliverance and Preservation, the whole Body of all his Loving Subjects in all His Dominions, have met with great Deliverance and Preservation to themselves and their Families; of which singular Blessing of God to Him, and in Him, to all these Three Nations, and all other His Dominions, we desire that all may be deeply sensible, and by Divine Grace and Assistance may be helped to be thankful unto God for the same, not only by confession of the Mouth, but by the good Works of a Christian

Life

Life and Conversation: And we sincerely pray, that God Almighty may still preserve and defend Him from all future Attempts and Designs of wicked Men; prolong His Life and Reign; make Him a great and eminent Instrument to promote True Christian Piety, and the True Protestant Doctrine and Cause against the Papal Faction and Hierarchy: Bless His Government more and more to Him, and all his Faithful and Loving Subjects; Establish His Throne in Righteousness during His Lifetime in this World, and in the World to come give him the Crown of Righteousness and of Eternal Life.

Given forth from our Meeting, at Turners-Hall in London, in behalf of our selves, and other Christian People of the same Faith and Perswasion with us, commonly called Quakers, though differing from many that go under that Name in diverse weighty Things, relating to Christian Faith and Doctrine.

The 26th of the Second Month,
called *April*, 1696.

F I N I S.

